

WASHINGTON TIMES
10 June 1925

ARNOLD BEICHMAN

Probe the KGB

Isn't it time to show America how its agents operate among us?

Probably the most important unfulfilled duty of the House and Senate Select Committees on Intelligence is to undertake an immediate and intensive investigation of KGB activities worldwide and, particularly, in the United States.

These investigations should lead to a series of public hearings as to Soviet espionage, disinformation, and other subversive operations by the KGB and its surrogate intelligence assets in Eastern Europe.

American public opinion must be made aware and kept informed about the KGB, an organization which threatens the security of the United States just as the Soviet army and its SS-20s threaten the security of Western Europe.

Much has been written about the Soviet secret police since their establishment by the triumphant Lenin and his latterday Joseph Fouché, a Polish revolutionary, Feliks Dzerzhinsky. However, it was with the accession in 1967 of Yuri V. Andropov as head of the KGB that its efflorescence began.

The KGB, as we have seen in recent days, has gone from triumph to triumph against the United States and its allies. Never have so many Soviet agents posing as diplomats been expelled from Europe, the United States, and Canada as in recent years.

Congress has a duty to undertake such an investigation in the same way that it felt it had a duty to investigate the CIA a decade ago under the direction of Sen. Frank Church and Rep. Otis Pike.

While one can argue the merits of the Church-Pike committee hearings, there can be no argument that these hearings seriously weakened American intelligence and, above all else, American counterintelligence.

Yet in all those hearings, no one then had the will or the initiative to ask:

If the CIA allegedly endangers, by its activities, the civil liberties of the American people, how much more is the KGB by its actions invading and threatening those liberties? I am not criticizing congressional oversight. In the nature of things and by the Constitution, Congress has the right of oversight of intelligence as practiced by the

CIA. But there is nothing in the charter of the congressional select committees which limits their oversight to only the CIA.

The KGB needs to be taken out into the sunlight. The committee hearings ought to hear such witnesses as Stanislav Levchenko, who broke with Moscow several years ago; Professor Roy Godson, the Georgetown University specialist in KGB disinformation strategy; Herbert Romerstein, a government expert on Soviet propaganda "active measures;" and the specialists in the West German, British, French, and Italian intelligence agencies.

This is an era in which espionage has come to be regarded as not especially evil, just something that comes from paperbacks, or something the superpowers engage in routinely. It's all one big spy novel à la John Le Carré or Robert Ludlum in which you don't know who's worse, the CIA agent or the KGB operative.

They're all epicene professionals who play games and tricks on each other and it little matters who wins or loses, so long as it's an interesting plot.

These spy novels, which sell in the millions, have given the CIA and the KGB a sort of "moral equivalence," in Jeane Kirkpatrick's phrase. In fact, one recent Hollywood movie, "Hopscotch," made the KGB station chief in Austria far more the bourgeois gentleman than the foul-mouthed CIA executive who was

trying to kill the "renegade" Walter Matthau, while the KGB man was trying to save his life by trying to win him over to the Soviet side. In short, for Hollywood, "treason" is no longer a crime, but a new box-office gimmick.

A proposed investigation of the KGB will, no doubt, bring loud outcries about a witch-hunt from the liberal-left and from Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., and House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass. That should not deter responsible congressmen from fulfilling the mandate of the two select committees on intelligence.

Arnold Beichman, visiting scholar at the Hoover Institution, is making a study of congressional oversight of intelligence.